

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111
U.S. Application. No.: 10/830,044
Attorney Docket No.: Q80791

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-27 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 4 and 7 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to better define the present invention. New Claims 23-27 have been added, support for which can be found in the specification and claims, as filed. Thus, there is no new subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation it is indicated that the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, have been withdrawn in light of Applicants' Amendment filed November 21, 2006.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8, 17 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Serizawa *et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0058589 A1) ("Serizawa"). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Preliminarily, Applicants note that it is indicated that Claims 1-6 are rejected, however, Claim 4 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection with respect to Claim 4 is improper.

As amended, independent Claim 1 is directed to an ink-jet recording medium comprising a support having disposed thereon at least one colorant-receiving layer, wherein a back-coat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more is provided on a surface opposite to a surface of the support having the colorant-receiving layer; wherein the laminar compound is water-swellaable synthetic mica; and wherein the colorant-receiving layer contains a water-soluble resin.

New Claim 23 depends from independent Claim 1. Claim 23 further specifies that the ink-jet recording medium of Claim 1 further comprises an undercoat layer provided under the colorant-receiving layer, the undercoat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more.

Serizawa discloses a recording material comprising a recording layer, resin layer, and a support but does not teach an ink-jet recording medium comprising a support with a back-coat layer. Serizawa also fails to teach that the resin layer (undercoat layer) containing mica is provided between the support and the recording layer.

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Further, Serizawa does not disclose a recording material comprising a color-receiving layer, a support, and a backcoat layer, as recited in Claim 1 of the present invention. Serizawa also fails to disclose a recording material comprising an undercoat layer, support and backcoat layer, as recited in Claim 23 of the present invention.

In light of the above, Serizawa fails to teach or suggest the ink-jet recording medium as defined in the present claims, and thus, does not anticipate Claims 1-3 and 5-6. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 1-6, 8, 17 and 20 over Serizawa be withdrawn.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Majumdar *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,475,695) ("Majumdar") in further view of Ohbayashi *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,005) ("Ohbayashi") and Serizawa. Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites that a back-coat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more is provided on a surface opposite to a surface of the support having the colorant-receiving layer, where the laminar compound is a water-swellaable synthetic mica. None of Majumdar, Ohbayashi or Serizawa teach or suggest a back-coat layer containing a water-swellaable synthetic mica, as recited in the claims of the present application. Further, Serizawa fails to teach or suggest a resin layer (undercoat layer) containing mica which is provided between the support and the recording layer.


Accordingly, Majumdar, Ohbayashi or Serizawa, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of Claim 1, and new Claim 23, and therefore, fail to render Claims 1-6, 8, 17 and 20, *prima facie* obvious. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 1-6, 8, 17 and 20 over Serizawa be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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